



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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COTTON AND SOYBEANS TO DOMINATE IN 2006; CORN ACREAGE TO PLUNGE

NASHVILLE, March 31, 2006 - For the third consecutive year, Tennessee producers intend to devote an increasing amount of their acreage to cotton and soybeans, according to the results of the March Agricultural Survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. Rising input costs and better market prices for cotton and soybeans relative to other crops have convinced growers to expand their acreages, mainly to the detriment of corn. Winter wheat seeded last fall is expected to rebound from 2005's historical low, while hay farmers also look to restock supplies with a moderate boost in acreage. Tobacco growers are expected to sharply reduce their acreage for the seventh consecutive year. "These acreage estimates are intended to reflect grower intentions as of March 1," stated State Director Debra Kenerson, "Changes in prices, production costs, and weather conditions will be major factors in determining what farmers actually choose to produce this year."

Prospective **soybean** acreage, at 1.22 million acres, is up 8 percent from a year ago and the highest since 1999. Conversely, planted area of **corn** is forecast at 530,000 acres, 18 percent below 2005 and the lowest since records began in 1926. The 2006 **sorghum** acreage is forecast at 18,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from the previous year and also a record low. Tennessee's **cotton** acreage is forecast at 680,000 acres, up 6 percent from 2005 and the highest since 1995. **Winter wheat** seedings for the 2006 season totaled 300,000 acres, up 25 percent from the 2005 crop. **Hay** producers intend to harvest an estimated 2.03 million acres, 145,000 acres more than in 2005. The State's **burley** tobacco area for harvest in 2006 is forecast at 13,000 acres, down 24 percent from the previous year and the lowest level since 1921. **Dark fire-cured** acreage is forecast at 5,400 acres, while **dark air-cured** is expected to total 450 acres.

Planted Acreage, 2004-2005 and Intended 2006, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2004	2005	2006 ¹	2006/2005	2004	2005	2006 ¹	2006/2005
Tennessee					United States			
	1,000 Acres			Percent	1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	680	650	530	82	80,929	81,759	78,019	95
Sorghum	20	22	18	82	7,486	6,454	6,483	100
Winter wheat	400	240	300	125	43,350	40,433	41,404	102
Soybeans	1,210	1,130	1,220	108	75,208	72,142	76,895	107
Cotton, all	530	640	680	106	13,658.6	14,195.4	14,634.0	103
Tobacco, all ²	30.26	22.95	18.85	82	408.05	298.02	306.63	103
Dark fired-cured	5.72	5.50	5.40	98	11.73	11.84	11.78	99
Burley	24.00	17.00	13.00	76	153.15	100.10	83.50	83
Dark air-cured	0.54	0.45	0.45	100	4.26	4.15	4.25	102
Hay ²	1,935	1,885	2,030	108	61,966	61,649	61,478	100

¹ Intended plantings for 2006. ² Acres harvested.

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